

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1409

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USINJC, EAGRI, IN, US

SUBJECT: JOINT COMMISSION: MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL INPUTS GROUP

REF: STATE 227050

1. SEPTTEL REPORTS ON AMBITIOUS GOI PROPOSALS ON A MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL INPUTS WORKING GROUP. THIS MESSAGE CONCENTRATES ON THE PERSONALITIES INVOLVED. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR DELEGATION LIST.)

P.J. FERNANDES, SECRETARY OF FERTILIZER, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, WHO WILL CHAIR INDIAN DELEGATION, IS THE KEY INDIAN OFFICIAL NOT ONLY ON FERTILIZER BUT ALSO ON PHARMACEUTICAL MATTERS. HE IS INTELLIGENT AND AGGRESSIVE AND CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO PUSH THROUGH ANY PROGRAM ON WHICH THERE IS AGREEMENT. IN VIEW OF HIS RANK AND IMPORTANCE TO US IN KEY FIELDS, WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR USG AGENCIES TO GIVE HIM HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION.

2. MUKHERJEE IS A HIGH LEVEL AND COMPETENT TECHNICIAN WHO, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, DOES NOT COME INTO POLICY MATTERS. ANNA GEORGE IS THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH FERTILIZER USE. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY MET KRISHNASWAMY. HE IS A LAST MINUTE ADDITION TO THE DELEGATION AND REFLECTS M.G. KAUL'S INTEREST IN OBTAINING SOMETHING TANGIBLE FROM THIS WORKING GROUP AND COORDINATING IT WITH HIS EFFORTS IN THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION.

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3. FERNANDES WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH FDA OFFICIALS AFTER WORKING

GROUP SESSIONS COMPLETED, PERHAPS ON OCTOBER 3. HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN TECHNICAL ASPECTS BUT WOULD LIKE BROAD REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLICY ASPECTS OF FDA'S ROLE IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS, PARTICULARLY FOR PHARMACUETICALS.

4. WE SUGGEST A MEETING WITH FDA BE SCHEDULED AND THE INDIAN EMBASSY INFORMED.
SAXBE

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